

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Sassnitz and Warnemuende Harbors

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1. The following Soviet traffic was observed in Sassnitz Harbor from
27 November - 7 December 1950:

- a. 27 November: five mine sweepers (M-Boote) were seen in the harbor
or in the roadstead. Of these, one Soviet-type vessel
Three of the vessels were large German-type
M-Boote. They carried 75 mm weapons, one fore and two aft. In
addition each boat carried an anti-aircraft machine-gun both port
and starboard.
- b. 29 November: four of the five mine sweepers left.
Marine Tug entered the harbor.
- c. 2 December: Soviet-type M-Boat entered the harbor.
- d. 4 December: a group of three ships entered the harbor during the
night. They appeared to be two gunboats and one escort vessel.
They were manned by Soviet personnel. So far as could be determined,
the gunboats had twin guns with protective shields both fore and
aft. The weapons were covered and it was not possible to observe
them. The gunboats were about as large as the large M-Boat but
were more clumsily built and with higher freeboard. The escort
vessel was named BETHA and showed no armament. It had a remarkably
large number of portholes and was fitted out with a great deal of
signal apparatus. It is possible that it serves as quarters for
a staff.
- e. Also on 4 December, in the morning, two herring drifters and one
M-Boat were seen at anchor before Sassnitz.
At noon the BETHA and
the two gunboats left the harbor for the anchorage outside and the
group of six vessels left the roadstead.
- f. 7 December: five smaller Soviet-type M-Boote were in the harbor.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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2. A signal station has been erected on the newly-built mole opposite the harbor entrance. Three new loading quays (Stichtbrusse) have been built over a period of time for fishing vessels. The newly-built fish dock is in the innermost corner of the harbor and is connected with the railway net by a special spur track. An ice factory is being built alongside the fish dock.

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3. Miscellaneous information about WARNEMÜNDE. Twelve launches 12 to 24 meters long are beached on the right bank of the mouth of the Warnow on the side opposite the DEUTSCHE AG.

The boats are constantly guarded by two armed sentries. The vessels have a kind of pivot on the forecastle and some of them have a machine gun pivot on the bridge in addition. Some of the boats have a mast before the bridge; others behind. These craft are said to be for the Latvians or Sea Police.

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4. The harbor area on the left bank of the river between the ferry basin and the People's Owned Shipyards is fenced in and is closely guarded by the police. Crews of ships which are docked in this area can reach their vessels only by going through a guarded gate. Sailors can move about more freely in Warnemünde than in Sassnitz. If a ship docks for less than 24 hours, only the captain is allowed on land. For longer periods, however, unrestricted shore leave is permitted, although sailors must be equipped with a shore pass.

5. Two large gantry cranes have been set up in the vicinity of the ferry basin. On the other side of the tongue of land from the basin a single gantry crane has been set up on the Warnow River. Large stocks of materials for shipbuilding and pit-proofs show the main kind of traffic in Warnemünde.

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6. Three large ships are in the People's Owned Shipyards: The HANBURG, the DEUTSCHE, and a third which has an estimated displacement of 3,000 tons. The latter vessel has four double derrick masts.

7. The drifter ERNST THAELMANN came to Warnemünde for repairs.

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8. the ERNST THAELMANN in Warnemünde and the construction of its overdeck varies from that of other vessels of this kind. Access to the holds is by means of hatches which are connected in two rows, one on either side of the deck. The rows are about the length of one torpedo and the greater portion of their length is located forward of amidship. The hatches are fastened down with covers which are screwed shut.*

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9. [] the Neptun Werft in Rostock has recently begun to repair small Soviet naval vessels. []
On 23 November a former German L-Boat went through Larnouende on its way to the shipyard in Rostock.

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* [] Comment: During the last war reconnaissance ships with camouflaged armament were used by both sides. These were called Q-ships, U-boat traps, etc. Other ships of a similar kind served as reconnaissance vessels in areas which were not suitable for uncamouflaged naval craft. Although it is by no means certain that the VENET THILLMANN may be a camouflaged naval vessel, it is probable that the Soviets are preparing larger fishing vessels for reconnaissance or other warlike operations. A drifter such as the VENET THILLMANN could be fitted out with underwater tubes and E-torpedoes.

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